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NIP-240

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

M. ISHIZAWA et al

Serial No. 09/940892

Filed: August 29, 2001

For: AUTOMATIC ANALYZER

U.S. PRO
09/940592
08/29/01

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)
UNDER § 1.97 AND § 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

1. This IDS should be considered:

(a) when filed within three months of the filing date of the present application, or within three months of the filing date of the National Stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs last;

(b) when filed before the mailing date of either a Final Rejection under § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311, whichever occurs first and when 1(a) does not apply. For this purpose, there is included herein either a certification in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box), or a fee of \$180.00 (a check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed, or if not see section 5 below);

(c) when filed prior to the payment of the Issue Fee, when 1(a)-(b) do not apply, and when a certification is included in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box); then the Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) and request(s) consideration of this IDS, and provided herewith is a fee of \$180.00 (a check in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the petition fee, or if not see section 5 below).

2. When 1(a)-(c) do not apply, then it is requested that this IDS be placed in the file.

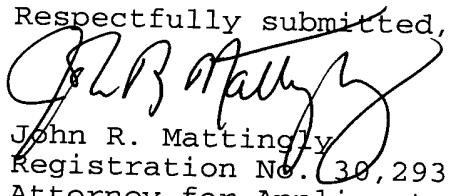
3. Listing of the information submitted is on the attached Form PTO-1449, which forms a part of this IDS. A copy of each listed document is enclosed.

4. If a fee or additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or additional fee that may be required and credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

5. No explanation of relevancy is being provided for the documents listed in the attached PTO-1449 Form, because each is either in the English language and/or discussed in the present Specification.

6. If the PTO determines that part(s) of the required content is inadvertently omitted, then it is requested that the Applicant(s) be given additional time and specific identification of such omission(s) to enable full compliance.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. Mattingly
Registration No. 30,293
Attorney for Applicants

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120
Date: August 29, 2001

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|---|--|--|-------|-----------------------------|------------|
| FORM PTO-1449 (REV. 7-80) | | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | ATTY. DOCKET NO. NIP-240 | SERIAL NO. |
| LIST OF DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) | | APPLICANT M. ISHIZAWA et al | | | |
| | | FILING DATE August 29, 2001 | GROUP | | |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE (If Appropriate) |
|------------------|----------|------|------|-------|----------|---------------------------------|
| AA | | | | | | 1000-094592 08/29/01 PTO |
| AB | | | | | | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| J | DOCUMENT | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
|---|----------------|----------|---------|-------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | | | YES | NO |
| J | AL 11-271322 | 10/8/99 | Japan | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| J | AM 11-271328 | 10/8/99 | Japan | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| J | AN 2000-171470 | 6/23/00 | Japan | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| J | AO 2000-221201 | 8/11/00 | Japan | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| J | AP 11-352132 | 12/24/99 | Japan | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

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| | DOCUMENT | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|------------|--------|---------|-------|----------|---|
| AL | 6-123743 ✓ | 6/5/94 | Japan | | | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| AO | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
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